

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A stent delivery system comprising:

a catheter;

a balloon operably attached to the catheter;

a stent disposed on the balloon; and

a coating disposed on an outer surface of the stent, the coating applied to a preliminary stent comprising a permanent portion and a detachable portion while retaining the preliminary stent by the detachable portion, the stent formed from the permanent portion by removing the detachable portion with a pooled coating.

Claim 2 (original): The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the coating includes a therapeutic agent.

Claim 3 (original): The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the coating is a polymer.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A coated stent comprising:

a stent;

a coating disposed on an outer surface of the stent, the coating applied to a preliminary stent comprising a permanent portion and a detachable portion while retaining the preliminary stent by the detachable portion, the stent formed from the coated permanent portion by removing the coated detachable portion with a pooled coating.

Claim 5 (original): The coated stent of claim 4 wherein the coating includes a therapeutic agent.

Claim 6 (original): The coated stent of claim 4 wherein the coating is a polymer

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for producing a stent comprising: providing a preliminary stent comprising a permanent portion and a detachable portion, the detachable portion comprising a first detachable portion and a second detachable portion;

retaining the preliminary stent by the detachable portion;
applying a coating to an outer surface of the preliminary stent; and
detaching the detachable portion with a pooled coating from the permanent portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7 further comprising [[finishing]] polishing the end of the permanent portion which was detached from the detachable portion.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 7 further comprising drying the coating.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein detaching the detachable portion from the permanent portion further comprises detaching the detachable portion from the permanent portion by laser cutting.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein detaching the detachable portion from the permanent portion further comprises detaching the detachable portion from the permanent portion by mechanical cutting.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein applying a coating to the preliminary stent further comprises spraying a coating on the preliminary stent.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein applying a coating to the preliminary stent further comprises dipping the preliminary stent to form a coating.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 7 wherein the ~~detachable portion further comprises a first detachable portion and a second detachable portion; and~~

retaining the preliminary stent by the detachable portion further comprises retaining the preliminary stent by the first detachable portion and the second detachable portion.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the coating includes a therapeutic agent.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the coating is a polymer.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A system for producing a stent comprising:

means for providing a preliminary stent comprising a permanent portion and a detachable portion;

means for retaining the preliminary stent by the detachable portion;

means for applying a coating to an outer surface of the preliminary stent;

and

means for detaching the detachable portion with a pooled coating from the permanent portion.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The system of claim 17 further comprising means for [[finishing]] polishing the end of the permanent portion which was detached from the [[permanent]] detachable portion.

Claim 19 (original): The system of claim 17 further comprising means for drying the coating.

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 17 wherein the detachable portion further comprises a first detachable portion and a second detachable portion; and means for retaining the preliminary stent by the detachable portion further comprises means for retaining the preliminary stent by the first detachable portion and the second detachable portion.

Claim 21 (new): The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the stent further comprises an uncoated cut end.

Claim 22 (new): The coated stent of claim 4 wherein the stent further comprises an uncoated cut end.

Claim 23 (new): A stent coating system comprising:
a preliminary stent comprising a first detachable portion, a second detachable portion and a permanent portion disposed between the first and second detachable portions; and
a retainer, the retainer comprising a first retaining portion and a second retaining portion, the preliminary stent disposed between the first retaining portion and the second retaining portion,
wherein the first detachable portion includes a first end for contacting the first retaining portion and the second detachable portion includes a second end for contacting the second retaining portion.